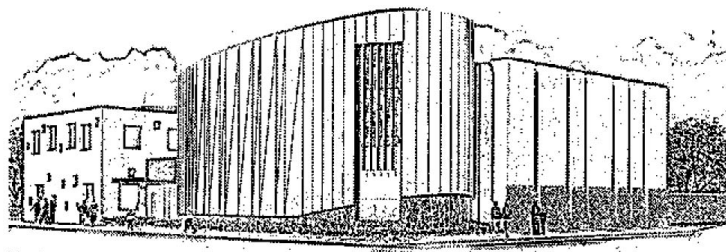




KNOX CHURCH
love faith outreach community justice



**Durham Street
Methodist Church**

Order of Service

15 December 2019



A service for Advent 3

**and for marking the moving on from the Knox Hall
of the Durham Street Methodist congregation**

WELCOME TO KNOX

Knox Church is a congregation within the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. We aim to create Christian community in which people of all ages, sexual orientations, cultural backgrounds and socio-economic situations are included as equally valued participants in our congregational life. We cherish our diversity, offering a safe place of belonging to any who wish to explore their beliefs in an atmosphere promoting discussion, the development of healthy relationships and spiritual growth. We strive to be open to dialogue and shared experiences with people of other faiths. We enjoy worshipping the God made known in Jesus, endeavouring to do so in ways that are relevant to our daily lives, respect the integrity of creation, and make a positive difference to our wider world.

A loop system for hearing aids operates at Knox.

Toilets are available through the door on the lectern side of the sanctuary.

Please don't leave any items unattended around the church;
they may cause alarm.

We take care to use inclusive language in our services. References to God in traditional prayers and hymns may sometimes be gender-specific. As we pray and sing together, you're invited to adapt the words we've chosen. When we pray the "Lord's prayer", feel free to pray in your first language.

The Call to Worship:

We light a candle in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

JESUS, FOR WHOM THE FULLNESS OF TIME AWAITED;

JESUS, DESTINED TO TURN THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN;

JESUS, WHOSE BIRTH PUT A SONG IN HIS MOTHER'S HEART.

Kia noho a Ihowa ki a koutou. God be with you.

MA IHOWA KOE E MANAAKI. GOD BLESS YOU.

Hymn:

Woodlands

Walter Greathorex (1877-1949)



1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of the word;
in God my saviour shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
3. Tell out, my soul, the glories of the Word!
Firm is the promise, and God's mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

Prayer of Approach

A bold hymn is sung.
We're noting the awaiting of a birth.
THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD.

Years ago,
Mary is coming to terms
with what this birth will mean for her.
THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD.

Around her, the people of Israel are waiting,
wondering how their life-long hopes are pending.
THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD.

Where, O God, in this world,
shall Christ be born?
Keep and lead us,
that we may find him.
THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD.

We worship God in the quiet, and say
THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD.

Silence

Where sometimes God is birthing someone or something new,
WE ARE CLOSING OUR MINDS.

Where sometimes God is fulfilling age old longings,
WE ARE SAYING "NO".

God, often we close ourselves to your new creation.
And so we say:

Lord have mercy.
CHRIST HAVE MERCY.
Lord have mercy.

Assurance and Response

. . . In the name of Christ, I say to you:
You are forgiven and you are free.
THANKS BE TO GOD.

Prayer of Supplication:

O God,
you put a song in the heart of Mary.
You lifted her soul to expect wonderful things.
**GIVE US, ALSO, A HIGH HOPE FOR OUR WORLD,
THAT WE, AS A COMMUNITY,
MAY ALSO GIVE LIFE
TO A NEW WAY OF BEING,
THE BRAND NEW CREATION.**

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
as he taught us to pray:

**OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME,
YOUR KINGDOM COME,
YOUR WILL BE DONE,
ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD.
FORGIVE US OUR SINS
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.
SAVE US FROM THE TIME OF TRIAL
AND DELIVER US FROM EVIL.
FOR THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY ARE YOURS
NOW AND FOR EVER. AMEN.**

If there are younger ones present
A Conversation with the Younger Ones

*Although Sunday School has concluded for the year,
young ones are welcome to enjoy the toys, books and activity sheets
in the children's area, at the rear of the church.*

The Advent Wreath: The Candle of Peace

The candle we light today is the candle of peace. When the risen Jesus first appeared to his disciples he said "Peace be with you". From the earliest times, Christians used these words as their greeting. Peace was passed in tranquil times and in times of turmoil. It was passed at communion, it was passed behind prison doors.

**THE DEEP PEACE OF CHRIST
SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING.**

We light this candle as people who are called to make peace.

**WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF JESUS,
AND WE LOOK TO HIS COMING AMONG US.**

The candle is lit

Prayer

Prince of peace; may your peace come upon us: peace among the nations, peace in our land, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. This Advent may we be made a people of peace.

**WE WAIT FOR YOUR LOVING KINDNESS, O GOD.
SO COME, LORD JESUS.
AMEN.**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 35: 1-10

In this is the Word of God
THANKS BE TO GOD.

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 1: 46-55

This is the gospel of Christ.
PRAISE TO CHRIST, THE WORD.

Sermon: Rev Philomeno Kinera

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

To the minister's words "In faith and hope and love",
you are invited to respond **"THIS IS OUR PRAYER"**.

The Offering and Dedication

We stand for the dedication of the Offering

We offer this money and food
TO CHRIST WHO BEGAN THE NEW CREATION.

We offer our talents and skills
TO THE ONE WHO HEALS AND FREES.

We offer our faith and hope
**TO THE ONE WHOSE KINGDOM IS EMERGING,
TO THE GLORY OF GOD,
AMEN.**

Notices

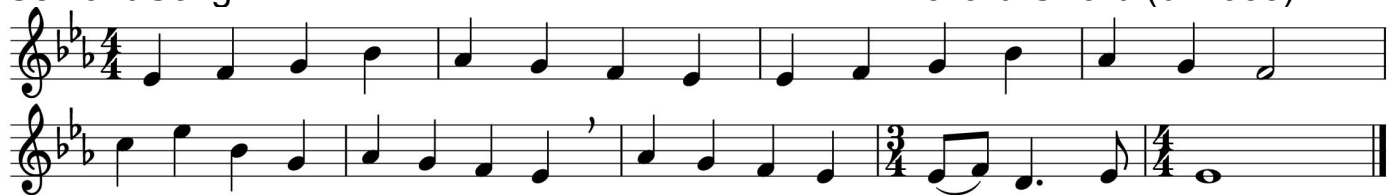
LITANY OF FAREWELL

*Durham Street's brass cross and offering plate have been placed
on Knox's communion table, as a sign of our having met.*

Hymn:

Servant Song

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)



1. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace to
let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ light for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
'till we've seen this journey through.
5. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)

Narrative

The Thanksgiving and Release:

There are many gifts,
BUT IT IS THE SAME SPIRIT WHO GIVES THEM.

There are different ways of serving God,
BUT IT IS THE SAME GOD WHO IS SERVED.

God works through different people in different ways,
**BUT IT IS THE SAME GOD
WHOSE PURPOSES ARE ACHIEVED THROUGH THEM ALL.**

Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,
TO USE FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

Sometimes, through extraordinary circumstances,
communities of faith are brought together.
Such circumstances brought together
the people of Durham Street Methodist Church,
and Knox Presbyterian Church.
**WE MOURN THE CIRCUMSTANCES,
AND GIVE THANKS FOR THE TOGETHERNESS.**

We give thanks for the sheltering hall in the Knox Centre,
**AND HOW IT HAS PRESERVED TWO COMMUNITIES,
EACH IN THEIR TIME OF NEED.**

We give thanks for friendships, and shared vision;
WE GIVE THANKS FOR "I AND THOU".

And now we mark this moment of parting.
THIS IS THE DAY THAT GOD HAS MADE.

Keep within us the memory of those with whom we have travelled,
AND UNITE US ALWAYS IN THE LOVE OF JESUS.
AMEN.

*Members of Durham Street remove the brass cross and offering plate
from the communion table.*

The Passing of the Peace

Kia tau tonu te rangimarie o te Ariki ki a koutou.
The peace of Christ be with you all.

**A KI A KOE ANO HOKI;
AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

We exchange a sign of peace with one another.

Hymn:

Laast Uns Erfreuen

from Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623



1. From all who dwell below the skies,
let the Creator's praise arise;
Hallelujah!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,
through every land, by every tongue.
Hallelujah!
2. Eternal are your mercies, God,
eternal truth attends your word:
Hallelujah!
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore,
till suns shall rise and set no more.
Hallelujah!

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Benediction and Sung Amen

Postlude

Tea and coffee are served in the Knox Centre Lounge following the morning service

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Christmas Services

Sunday
22 December,
10:00am

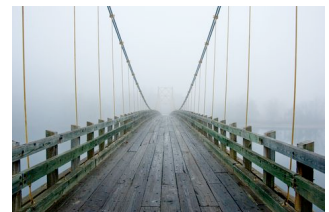
A Service of
Nine Lessons and Carols
featuring the traditional
Christmas readings and lots of
festive music.



Tuesday
24 December,
11:15pm

A Christmas Eve service of
Carols, Candlelight and
Communion

“How am I going to do this?”



Wednesday
25 December,
10:00am

A simple celebration for
Christmas Day

“Settling in”



Services over New Year

On Sunday 29 December, Knox's minister will take the morning service



**Sunday 5 January
10:00am**

Communion service,
led by Rev. Glenn Livingstone

Sunday 12 January, 10:00am

Ordinary morning service
led by Rev. Glenn Livingstone

Her need is CLEAR.

Give **WATER** for Christmas,
the essence of survival

 **CWS**
action against poverty
actalliance

**donate
now**

christmasappeal.org.nz

WATER

This Christmas, Christian World Service asks you to support families in need of water. From families of HIV and AIDS orphans in Uganda's dry region to fisherfolk on south India's coast who have lost access to the sea

and their livelihoods, the demand for water is very great. In rural and urban areas, water shortages or sometimes severe floods are having a huge effect. With your help families can get access to the water they need to escape. The right to the dignity that comes with safe water, good sanitation, and a decent livelihood belongs to us all.

Please make your donation in the envelope provided (available on the table in the new foyer) or donate on line at: <http://christmasappeal.org.nz/donate/>.

The need is clear – give water for Christmas, the essence of survival.

From the time she was ten years old, Meenakshi has collected seaweed off India's coast at the Gulf of Mannar. Wearing her sari, she dives deep into the ocean plucking the seaweed from underwater rocks, stones and dead coral. Now she has turned 55 and with her children grown, she and her husband who is a seafarer depend on the seaweed to survive.

On the days they harvest, she gets up at 4 am to prepare breakfast before arriving for work at 7 am. Men operate the small boats that take them to the islands for the 15 days a month they work - allowing time for regeneration between expeditions. The women use nets to collect 25-30 kg a day, which they dry for three days while they stay on the island. They sell the dry seaweed for 33 cents a kilogram, down from 44 cents before GST was introduced. During the two-month ban on fishing starting in April, the men receive relief payments from the government but there is none for the women.

The Gulf of Mannar is a rich source of sea life and home to over 4,223 species of flora and fauna. In 2002 the government declared it a Marine Biosphere, banning the collection of seaweed. It took two years for the 2,000 women to win the permits needed to collect seaweed. The women depend on the seaweed for their livelihood and argue there is no regulation against bottom trawling and the use of destructive fishing gear and boats, which are much more destructive.

One of the uninhabited islands has lost 2-3 hectares of coast from erosion and in the last 50 years, the sea surface temperature in the Gulf has risen about 0.3 degrees. Coral disease and bleaching are increasing.

Meenashki says the women know how to protect the mangroves and seaweed for generations to come if the government would let them. She was one of two women to receive a best leadership award for their fight to attain rights for Women Seaweed collectors.

She is a member of the Tamil Nadu Women Fisherworkers *sangam* or association, set up to protect their working rights. The women have learned to organise petitions and lobby government officials to press for access to the coast. Dependent on the coast for their livelihoods, the 915,000 fisherfolk who make it their home have watched rapid changes— the fishing catch is much smaller, the beaches more badly eroded and storms more frequent and intense.

“As our coast is flooded with industrial and infrastructure projects [like power plants, they have destroyed the mangrove forests, polluted the coastal water bodies including creeks and estuaries. If a proposed tourist project goes ahead, we will not be permitted to collect seaweed. We will be displaced slowly,” says Meenakshi.



Meenakshi knows the importance of protecting the coast but not for power plants and large-scale aquaculture.



The Bible readings for next week will be:

Genesis 3: 3-15

Isaiah 11: 1-9

Luke 2: 8-16

Genesis 22: 15-18

Luke 1: 26-38

Matthew 2: 1-11

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Matthew 1: 18-23

John 1: 1-14

Knox Directory

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website

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minister@knoxchurch.co.nz
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ph. (03) 338 7203

Director of Music: Daniel Cooper,
organist@knoxchurch.co.nz

Pastoral Assistant: Jan Harland
ph. 0273560215



facebook



Keeping in Touch

Please help us get acquainted with you by filling in this form
and putting it in the offering bag.

Name:

Contact details